

Winter Descends Bringing Snow and Low Temperatures

Approximately One Foot of "Beautiful" Covers This Area

Winter struck this region in earnest Friday when a heavy snowstorm covered the ground to a depth of approximately nine inches and the thermometer took a nose-dive towards the zero mark. The mercury has fallen below zero several times during the week and has not gotten very far above that mark at any time. The sky has been overcast all week and snow showers have fallen each day and night, building the blanket up to approximately one foot to date.

Drifting snow has handicapped traffic, making the task of transporting school children by bus somewhat hazardous and preventing farmers from getting to town.

Travel to the south and west out of Heppner has been limited since Saturday. Snow plows have been attempting to clear the highway through to Condon but latest reports indicate that the efforts have not been successful. Ranchers in the Eight mile district have been able to get to town but beyond that area the going has been tough.

Reports through the press, over the radio and from persons who have been in other places indicate that the storm here was comparable to most of the region along the fringe of the Blue mountains but experienced a lighter snowfall than territory bordering on the Cascades. So far as learned, low mark on the thermometer in the current spell has been 10 below zero.

Oregon Had 37,000 Miles of Roads In 1914--Before Highway Program Started

By RALPH WATSON
Public Relations Consultant Oregon State Highway Commission

Back in the "B. C." era, before the 1917 legislature had set up the present state highway commission, Major Henry L. Bowly recorded in his first annual report on the state highway engineer that "there are more than 37,000 miles of road in Oregon." That was on November 30, 1914, after the 1913 legislature had delegated to Gov. Oswald West, state secretary Ben W. Oleott, and state treasurer Thos. B. Kay, the chore of serving as a state highway commission and building a system of state highways.

At that time they launched Major Bowly upon the construction of the Columbia highway, the Pacific highway and some secondary roads and gave him a total of \$248,570.60 raised by a 1/4 mill state road tax to start the job. In his report the Major notes that on Nov. 30, 1914, he had a "balance available" of \$59,595.88.

Those were the days when contractors did their blasting with black powder and built their wheel-horse-drawn dump wagons and Fresno wheeled scrapers.

Major Bowly also notes: "The rule has been that one dollar is all the damage a man is entitled to when the state or the county asks permission to build for him a modern highway." And speaking of "hard surfacing state highways" he says, "It is not necessary today, as it was four to eight years ago, to argue that the motor vehicle has come to stay and that the roads must be designed to stand this new and severe traffic." And speaking of roads in general he prophesied, "Many years will elapse before more than 10 percent of the road mileage (37,000 miles) is hard surfaced. The greater part of the attention of the county courts will always be taken up with building and maintaining earth roads."

That was 35 years ago. As of June 30, 1948, the report of state engineer R. H. Baldock shows 4,492 miles of primary and 1,602 of secondary highways under hard surface paving--better than 16 percent of the total road mileage in the state in 1941. In the face of this it is worthy of note that the total "county road" mileage has decreased from the 1914 total of 37,000 to 35,551 miles. Of this composite stretch of county roads, 2,660 miles are paved either with concrete or bituminous macadam or have been oiled; 13,167 miles are surfaced but unoled; 4,772 miles graded; leaving 14,952 miles unimproved for the counties to improve and maintain. In addition to all these, there were 17,039 miles of national forest and park roads, Indian reservations, state forest, park and military reservation roads, and nonhighway city streets, only 800 miles of which are unimproved; a grand total

Northwest Range Men Schedule Meet At Pendleton, 27-28

What's all the fuss about?

That's the title of a discussion to be led at the forthcoming first annual meeting of the northwest area, American society of range management in the Vert Memorial, Pendleton, January 27 and 28. It will be led by Allen Rogers, Ellensburg, Wash.

The speaker is a former chairman of the American National Livestock association's public relations committee.

Technical range management specialists from the Pacific Northwest will attend the two-day meeting, and Joseph F. Peckham, Forest Service Portland, who is in charge of the program, has announced that livestock producers are invited to attend. Sessions will get underway at 9:30 each day.

The talk by Rogers is aimed at improving relations between technical range men and range owners and users, it is pointed out.

Other program features include a discussion on eradication and control of undesirable range plants led by John Chohlis, Soil Conservation Service, Yakima.

A banquet the evening of January 27 will feature W. T. White, Soil Conservation, Portland. He will report observations on range and pasture management in Italy.

E. R. Jackman, O.S.C. extension farm crop specialist, will lead a panel discussion on getting range management into practice. Panel members will include Arthur Boshke, Yakima; Ed McCansie, North Powder; Waldo Frandsen, Soil Conservation Service, Portland; and Henry Lazinka, Ukiah. The superintendent of the Squaw Butte-Harney Range Livestock Experiment station, A. W. Sawyer, Burns, will lead a discussion on control and elimination of big sagebrush.

Queries Regarding Union High School Prompt Rural School Board to Study Possibilities and Issue Bulletin

Do the patrons of districts No. 1, 12, and 35, otherwise Heppner, Lexington and Ione, want to form a union high school district and build an entirely new plant on a site removed from either of the three towns? That's a question to which the Rural School board is devoting some attention in an effort to sound the sentiment of patrons and taxpayers and determine whether or not it would be worthwhile to go into the matter any deeper.

To make this test, the office of the county superintendent has prepared and mailed a letter to about 540 school patrons of the three districts, enclosing figures on costs of financing, school bus operation and other factors that would enter into a change from the present system. The letter reads in part:

"The Rural School board has been requested to make a study of the school expansion program involving the Ione, Lexington and

Heppner schools and the surrounding areas.

"Pupil population and state standards require a considerable outlay of capital in the immediate future at Heppner and Ione. Patrons of this area have asked that this study include information relative to a union high school serving the above area.

"The Rural School board has studied this problem and herewith presents data that is pertinent to the establishment of a union high school. In view of its county-wide responsibility for the educational program, the Rural School board feels obligated to present this material for your study and evaluation. Any further action on its part will be dependent upon the wishes and desires of the voters in this area."

Districts that would logically belong are 1, Heppner; 2, Lena; 3, Willoway; 5, Morgan; 12, Lexington; 23, Devine; 24, Willows; 35, Ione; 41, Sand Hollow, and 42,

Balm Fork. Total valuation, \$8,615,675. If bond to 5 percent, amount raised would be \$431,283.75; to 10 percent, \$862,567.50.

Other districts which could and perhaps should join a union high school district: 8, Arlington-Morrow; 19, Rood Canyon; 39, Arlington-Morrow; 40, Hardman UHSI, for a total valuation of \$1,188,760. Grand total, \$9,814,435. If bond to 5 percent, \$490,721.75. (Present state law permits bonding up to 10 percent of assessed value).

Grade school enrollment 1949-50 (from first to 12th, inclusive): Heppner, 433; Lexington, 81; Ione, 140; total 654. High schools: Ione, 38; total of 174, this year. Based on present enrollment it is estimated that by 1957-58 the total will be 241.

Taking three union high school districts in widely separated parts of the state, Reedsport, Burns and Sherwood, for comparison with

the three Morrow county schools, the chart shows that in 1947-48 their average operating expense was \$61,800, while the total for the three Morrow county schools percent higher.

These figures do not include cost of transportation.

Amount budgeted for teacher personnel, 1949-50: Heppner high school, \$35,800; Lexington high school, \$10,430; Ione high school, \$20,500, or \$66,730. For proposed union high school: Administrator \$6,000; teachers, 11 at \$3,600, \$39,600, a total of \$45,600. Difference, \$21,130.

Transportation is a story in itself and due to lack of time at this writing can not be covered in this article. It would involve some additional cost, perhaps an average of \$600 to each of the three operating districts, according to the figures prepared by Henry Tetz, Rural School board secretary and county superintendent.

C of C Postpones Annual Dinner Due To Cold Weather

Taking a leaf from last year's experience, the Heppner chapter of commerce Monday decided to postpone the annual dinner announced for this evening until such time as the weather gives promise of behaving. With about a foot of snow on the ground and the mercury hovering around the zero mark, it was not difficult to arrive at the conclusion that the dinner could wait.

A proposal was submitted at Monday's meeting that the fiscal year of the chamber of commerce be changed from January 1 to April 1. By so doing, it was argued, there would be less worry about the weather and it would also be easier to secure a speaker. Arrangements had been made with the American Legion auxiliary to prepare and serve the dinner at the Legion hall and this will be followed through when the date is set.

TIME ELAPSES FOR LOANS OR PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

Farmers in Morrow county who want government price support for their wheat are reminded today that they have only a few days left in which to take out their loans or purchase agreements. January 31 is the closing date for obtaining a loan or signing a purchase agreement to protect the price of your 1949 wheat crop, according to L. L. Howton, chairman of the county PMA committee.

Howton warns farmers having farm-stored wheat that it takes at least three days to obtain a farm-stored loan as a representative sample must be taken and sent to Portland for grading before the loan can be made. Therefore, you should notify the county office as soon as possible if you plan on taking a farm-stored loan.

Bad Weather Forces 30-Day Shutdown On Grain Growers Elevator Building

By RUTH PAYNE

Due to the extreme weather conditions, work on the grain elevator for Morrow County Grain Growers has ceased temporarily and most of the crew has returned to California for a thirty day period when it is hoped construction can again be resumed.

At noon Tuesday in the midst of the heavy snowstorm a large flock of geese were seen flying over town in a Northwesterly direction. They were flying at a very low altitude apparently in quest of food or shelter from the storm.

Over one hundred Oddfellows and Rebekahs were on hand Saturday evening to witness the joint installation of officers and partake of the ham dinner served prior to the ceremonies. Officers installed for Willows lodge No. 66 included Jesse C. Payne, Noble Grand; Ted Pierson, vice-grand; Durward Tash, secretary; Chas. W. Barlow, treasurer; Victor Groshen, warden; Frank Davidson, conductor; Chas. Hasvold, inside guardian; Jack Edmondson, outside guardian; Lee Howell, right support; Ralph Bower, left support to the noble grand; Harold Kenney, chaplain; Cornett Green, right support, and Pirl Howell, left support to the vice grand. For Sans Souci Rebekah lodge, Marilyn Robinson was installed as noble grand; Jeanne Dobbs, vice grand; Ruth Payne, secretary; Pearl Devine, treasurer; Adelle Hannon, warden; Ethelyn Pierson, conductor; Blanche Brown, inside guardian; Mabel Chaffee, outside guardian; Letha Archer, R.S.N.G.; Margaret Thomas, L.S.N.G.; Mattie Green, chaplain; Mary Bailey, R.S.V.G.; Della Davidson, L.S.V.G. Installing officers were District deputy presidents, N. D. Bailey and Ruth Bergstrom and grand marshalls Lee Howell and Florence Green.

Mrs. Lucy Peterson was appointed missionary chairman and Mrs. R. B. Rice United Thank Offering chairman at the meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of All Saints Episcopal church Thursday afternoon at the parish house. Plans for the annual pancake luncheon were discussed. Blanche Brown and Josie Jones, assisted by Lucy Peterson were hostesses.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wright and his mother, Mrs. Mary Wright, spent Thursday in Pendleton looking after business.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Allstott Jr. were over from Hermiston for the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Bergstrom.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Parker have returned from a visit of several weeks in Los Angeles and other points in southern California where they visited relatives. Jack Elliott has disposed of his interest in the garbage business and the route has been taken over by Raymond McDonald.

Girl Scout troop No. 4 gave a party Monday afternoon at the

Governor Pledges All-out Support For Polio Campaign

Greatest Drive in History Launched All Over Nation

Bolstered by the unqualified endorsement of Governor Douglas McKay, the 1950 March of Dimes gathered momentum in Morrow and 35 other Oregon counties today as hundreds of volunteers threw themselves into history's greatest campaign against infantile paralysis.

Enthusiasm over the drive "has never been quite so great," according to Oregon's veteran March of Dimes chairman, Dr. E. T. Hedlund of Portland, who predicted that this year's polio fundraising effort in the state "will be the best ever."

Dr. Hedlund's optimistic announcement followed hard on the heels of a statement by Governor McKay in which the state's executive said that "four consecutive epidemic years have decreased funds for the infantile paralysis fight to a critical low."

Governor McKay pointed out that the research program of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, as well as the foundation's patient care activities, is threatened by a lack of finances. He remarked that scientists expected to develop a preventive against the disease within five years and that "the research that is making possible this boon to all humanity must continue uninterrupted."

The governor said in concluding his statement, "I pledge the 1950 March of Dimes my unqualified support in this hour of great need and I am sure that my fellow Oregonians will join me in generously backing a cause that claims the interest and sympathy of all of us."

Dr. Hedlund reported that all Continued on page six



"Club 21" Dinner Set For Wednesday Evening, January 25

Arrangements have been completed for the banquet being sponsored by the Junior chamber of commerce in behalf of young men becoming 21 years of age at this time. The affair will be held Wednesday evening, January 25, at the Legion hall, beginning at 7 p. m., with the Jay-Cee-ettes serving the food.

The sponsors have informed those on the eligible list that the purpose of "Club 21" is "to celebrate your 21st birthday and at the same time emphasize the new privilege of becoming of age. Particularly, we want to make you conscious of your voting privilege."

To make the meeting more impressive, there will be present the presidents of the Young Republican and Young Democrat clubs of Portland who will try to prove the merits of their respective parties.

Tickets are available at Gonty's and Rosewalk Motor company for those who wish to attend the dinner, which is to be a strictly stag affair.

Judge Tells Jay-Cee Group of Hospital Operation Plans

Thirty-four Jay Cees and Jay-Cee-ettes braved Wednesday night's sleet and cold to hear Judge J. G. Barratt discuss the Morrow county hospital at their monthly potluck dinner. Those assembled responded to the Judge's report on the cost, problems of construction, and future plans concerning the opening and operation of the hospital by numerous interested inquiries. The Judge stated that he was particularly interested in discussing various rumors about the hospital. His remarks were so well received that the two organizations plan to ask representatives of other local governing groups to future meetings for similar reports.

Mrs. John Pfeiffer was elected president of the Jay-Cee-ettes for the coming year. Also chosen to lead the group were Mrs. Richard Meador, vice president; Mrs. Leonard Pate, secretary; Mrs. James Hager, treasurer; Mrs. Kemp Dick, Mrs. Richard O'Shea and Mrs. William Labhart, directors; and Mrs. Jack Estberg, immediate past president.

Both groups completed plans for the Junior chamber of commerce banquet feting young men of the community who have attained their 21st birthday.

Miss Leta Humphreys has notified the Jay-Cee-ettes that the prize money which she won in their Christmas lighting contest will be used to buy a gift for the kindergarten.

Retiring Jay-Cee-ette officers acted as hostesses for the supper.

CUB SCOUTS TO MEET

Bobcat badges will be awarded to Cub Scouts tomorrow evening when the scouts and their parents meet at the Parish house of the Episcopal church. The meeting will open at 7:30.

TO GIVE THIRD DEGREE

Exemplification of the third degree will be the order of work Wednesday evening, January 25 at the meeting of Willows lodge No. 66, I. O. O. F. The noble grand has expressed a desire to see a large turnout of the brethren.

Allen Case and Alex Thompson of Case Furniture Co. are in Portland this week on business.

Random Thoughts...

Mr. Truman should not take too much for granted when he glibly advocates a \$5,000 income for every family. Does he not remember Mr. Hoover's advocacy of "two cars in every garage"?

Friday's heavy snowstorm caused a change of bus schedules at the local school and for a time there was the atmosphere of a bus depot about the local seat of learning. Students dependent on the buses for transportation were excused ahead of the closing schedule and as each bus drove up, Supt. Pate visited the several classrooms and stated, "the bus for Sand Hollow will leave in five minutes," or something similar, depending upon which bus was ready to depart. The students got a chuckle out of it and tension, if there was any, was lessened for those who stood a chance of being stalled in a snowdrift.

Something happened in a local restaurant Wednesday evening that would have been tragic in prohibition days but which under the present liquor set-up was more a matter of embarrassment to the interested party. A man seated at the counter had the misfortune of losing a partially emptied pint of liquor. The bottle worked out of his hip pocket and hit the floor with disastrous results.

The accident prompted some reminiscences relative to prohibition. For instance, there was the story the parson's wife told of the man who ordered his shipment to come labeled "Books." To his surprise he received a call from the local agency to please come and get his shipment of books as some of them were leaking.

During the early days of national prohibition a man dropped a small flask of liquor on the sidewalk at a point about where the bakery is located in Heppner. A few paces behind him was a piano player who was employed at the Star theater (then located on the corner now occupied by Easter's Grill.) Being somewhat of an actor, the piano player took out his handkerchief, wiped his eyes, as well as attempting to stop the flow of saliva issuing from his mouth, and in a dramatic voice shouted, "A sponge, a sponge! My kingdom for a sponge! While he was thus engaged, the co-owner of the bottle made hasty tracks away from the scene.

It was unfortunate that the weather was so bad that many of the farmers could not attend the smut control demonstration here Wednesday. Had they been able to reach the Union Pacific car they would have enjoyed comfort for modern methods of producing creature comfort have been employed by the railroad company in making this traveling school available in all types of weather. It is a self-contained unit--gas or coal heat, the latter as an auxiliary should the gas supply run out; its own light equipment, and a seating capacity of 70 persons. A sound system and motion picture projection room--even individual microphones for those who wish to ask questions or make comment. A bunk room at one end provides sleeping quarters for those who accompany the car. This type of equipment makes it possible for the company and the extension services to carry their programs to the farm population any time of year and particularly in off-season periods.

A taxi was creeping slowly through the New York rush-hour traffic and the passenger was in a hurry. "Please," he said to the driver, "can't you go any faster?" "Sure I can," the cabby replied. "But I ain't allowed to leave the taxi." -- The American Legion Magazine.

Pacific Northwest Becoming Nation's Wheat Smut Center

Oregon and the Pacific Northwest seem well on the way to regaining the dubious distinction of being the nation's number one wheat smut disease source.

During 1949, 20.3 percent of nearly 19,000 farmer owned lots of wheat graded smutty, a rise of 6 percent from the preceding year. It was reported recently to the Pacific Northwest Smut Control committee by R. E. White, PMA grain supervisor, Portland who handles federal grain inspection for the three northwestern states.

White estimates that 13 million bushels of the 1949 crop in the three states will be marketed as smutty. In addition to cash discounts, Extension Farm Crop Specialist, Rex Warren at Oregon State college, a member of the wheat smut control committee, points out that presence of smut also affects the yield adversely.

Two wheat varieties, Elgin and Golden, contributed 86.4 percent of the smutty grain. Total smut infestation after being reduced to just 2.8 percent of the crop in 1942-44 has been climbing for over seven years straight. Swing to non-smut resistant varieties such as Elgin and Golden, and failure on the part of the farmers to take proper seed treatment precautions are listed as the principal reasons for the increase.

In the western Columbia basin area, the total infestation was reduced from 11.3 percent a year ago to 6.3 percent in 1949. Marked improvement was shown in the Condon area, White stated. Bad spots were confined to the northern part of Wasco county in 1948.

Smut, a spore disease, has been known to reduce yields to 25 or 30 percent. In the Pendleton inspection station area, improvement in the over-all smut picture was also registered in 1949 as compared with the year previous. Samples grading smutty totaled 16.9 percent in 1949 as compared with 19.7 for the year before.

Wranglers Board Plans '50 Activities

With a view to preparing a calendar of events for the year and to stimulate activity in their organization, officers and directors of the Wranglers, Morrow county riding club, met the evening of January 6 at the Merle Becker home. A tentative calendar was set up which will be subject to change to suit conflicting conditions that may arise.

First event planned is a dance to be held at the Lexington grange hall Saturday evening, January 28. There will be pinole and probably bingo for those who are not interested in tripping the light fantastic. The Arlington Saddle club has been invited to be guest of the Wranglers.

An effort is being made to expand the membership of the club and prospective members are urged to turn in their applications now so they can be acted upon early and permit applicants to get in on the full year's activities.

Cabrillo and Ferrel, two Spanish mariners, are believed the first white men to see Oregon. They sailed along the coast in 1543.

A treaty in 1819 between the U. S. A. and Spain fixed the southern boundary between the Oregon country and Spanish territory at 42 degrees latitude. This now marks the boundary between Oregon and California.